

FY 2003 - 2004 Great Lakes National Program Office Funding Guidance - Four Requests for Proposals

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REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

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SUMMARY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) is requesting Proposals for up to \$4,827,000 for projects furthering protection and clean up of the Great Lakes ecosystem. This Funding Guidance is different from Funding Guidances issued by GLNPO during the last 10 years. It consolidates the annual USEPA GLNPO competitive solicitation (the "General Request") with funds previously managed by USEPA Water programs in Regions 2 and 5 for projects for development and implementation of Lakewide Management Plans and Remedial Action Plans (the Specific LaMP/RAP Request). The Specific LaMP/RAP Request is much more specific than the General Request. Also included in this Funding Guidance are new solicitations for Conferences and Publications and for a Grants Servicing Intermediary. Although a common Proposal format will be used for all but the Grants Servicing Intermediary, applicants are advised to consider differences regarding eligibility, the evaluation process, and due dates. The initial deadline for all Proposals is **8:00 AM Central time, Monday morning, March 31, 2003**. Part of RFP 3 has a separate **rolling monthly deadline** ending when funds are exhausted. Summaries of the Requests for Proposals follow.

The **General Request for Proposals** (RFP 1) totals \$2,720,000 to be awarded in the summer and fall of FY 2003 for Great Lakes projects pertaining to Contaminated Sediments; Pollution Prevention and Reduction (Binational Toxics Strategy); Ecological (Habitat) Protection and Restoration; Invasive Species; and Strategic or Emerging Issues. Work would generally be done during FY 2004. Evaluations can include State, Tribal, and Federal representatives.

The **LaMP/RAP Specific Request for Proposals** (RFP 2) totals \$1,752,000 to be awarded in the summer and fall of 2003. RFP2 includes 29 descriptions of specific projects furthering the Lakewide Management Plans and Remedial Action Plans. Work would generally be done during FY2004. General eligibility provisions apply to apply for the projects described in RFP2A. Only States, Tribes, and Interstate and Intertribal Agencies are eligible to apply for RFP2B. Evaluations are done only by USEPA.

The **Conferences and Publication Request for Proposals** (RFP 3) totals \$275,000 to be awarded starting in Spring of 2003. Work would generally be done during 2003 and 2004. Funding requests in three general areas will be reviewed by GLNPO on a monthly basis throughout the year and as long as money is available; however, Proposals for a State of Lake Michigan Basin Conference and for Basin-wide RAP Priorities are due on March 31, 2003. Evaluations are done only by USEPA.

The **Grants Servicing Intermediary Request for Proposals** (RFP 4) totals \$60,000 to \$100,000 to be awarded during Spring, 2003 for management of sub-grants. An "intermediary" organization would make and administer grant sub-awards for habitat and possibly other areas. Applicants should contact GLNPO to request an application package. DO NOT use the PSS2003 electronic submittal program for RFP4. Evaluations are done only by USEPA.

Applicants for RFP1, RFP2, and RFP3 should submit Proposals using the PSS2003 software available from <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2003guid/>. We request that you go to the this website and register with us now, so that we can keep you informed about our funding process.

Sections I through V of this Funding Guidance include information on Process and Schedule, Application Instructions, "Line-by-Line" Instructions and Examples from Previous Years, a listing of key USEPA Contacts, and General Criteria applicable to all Proposals. These Sections are followed by the four Requests for Proposals.

I. BACKGROUND , PROCESS, AND SCHEDULE

About GLNPO. USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office oversees and coordinates United States responsibilities under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, bringing together Federal, State, Tribal, local, and industry partners in an integrated, ecosystem approach to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. The program develops and monitors Great Lakes ecosystem indicators; manages and provides public access to Great Lakes data; helps communities address contaminated sediments in their harbors; supports local protection and restoration of important habitats; promotes pollution prevention through activities and projects such as the Canada-U.S. Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS); explores emerging or strategic Great Lakes issues; and provides assistance for development and implementation of Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) and of community-based Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for Areas of Concern. GLNPO has a staff of about 45 located in Chicago, Illinois, and an annual budget of about \$15 million. The 680 GLNPO projects totaling \$65 million funded between 1993 and 2002 are summarized at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/>.

Development of this Request for Proposals. Work done in development of the **2002 Great Lakes Strategy** informed criteria revisions for this Request for Proposals. The Strategy was developed cooperatively by the Federal, State, and Tribal members of the U.S. Policy Committee, with the consultation of the Great Lakes public. It describes objectives, measures, and activities by State, Tribal, and Federal partners working together to protect and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. See: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/gls/index.html> "**LaMPs 2002**" informed Lake-specific goals in both the Strategy and this Request for Proposals. Specific project priorities of the LaMPs are included in this Request for Proposals. General funding priorities and targets were derived from the USEPA' budget submitted to Congress for approval, but not yet finalized. Development of that budget began in 2001.

FY 2002 Funding Recap. In FY 2002, GLNPO notified potential applicants that it was seeking Proposals for a total of \$2.9 million in the priority areas of: Contaminated Sediments; Habitat Protection and Restoration; Pollution Prevention; Habitat Indicators; Invasive Species; and Emerging or Strategic Issues. In response, applicants submitted 192 Proposals, seeking \$20 million in funding. In May, applicants were asked to submit application packages for 48 projects <<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2002fund/yeslist.html>> totaling \$3 million. All but one of those projects has been, or is expected to be, awarded. The "success rate" for Proposals submitted in FY2002 was 25%, higher than success rates of previous years. The success rate was 14% in FY2000 and 23% in FY1999.

Process and Review Provisions applicable to all Proposals. USEPA's Great Lakes program is broadly soliciting Proposals through an Internet announcement and posting, with supplemental announcements being done through mailings and the Federal Register. GLNPO will screen Proposals upon receipt to ensure they conform to the solicitation and that they are placed in the proper categories. GLNPO may contact an Applicant to discuss changing categories. Proposals will be evaluated for conformity with the Proposal Requests, applying the General Criteria and any identified Specific Criteria. At least three reviewers will evaluate each Proposal before recommendations are made to management. USEPA will invite only Applicants whose Proposals are selected to submit detailed final Proposals along with the SF-424 and attendant documentation for Federal assistance (Application Packages). USEPA reserves the right to negotiate changes in Proposals before making final decisions and awards and reserves the right to reject all Proposals or applications and make no awards. USEPA has 60 days to issue an award following receipt of the complete, finalable Application Package. Final funding decisions are based upon the Application Packages. When GLNPO is aware of appropriate funding opportunities in other USEPA offices, Proposals will be forwarded to those offices for their consideration.

Review of Proposals in the General Request (RFP 1). Proposals in the General Request will be evaluated by USEPA reviewers and by reviewers from other Federal organizations, States, and Tribes. Evaluations take into account an Applicant's ranking of its Proposals and do not penalize Applicants for submitting multiple Proposals. Evaluations will take into account recommendations on specific needs and priorities of geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans or Initiatives for each of the Great Lakes and their included geographic initiatives such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern. Pre-application assistance is encouraged; to obtain additional information about those needs and priorities, applicants are encouraged to consult with applicable USEPA staff identified in Section IV. *In making award decisions, USEPA will consider the geographic distribution of projects and funds*, selecting technically sound projects across the basin at both a geographic and institutional level to achieve a reasonable balance of funding by Lake, applicant type, and the State of project location.

The schedule for Proposals in the General Request is:

Deadline for Submission of Proposals	8:00 AM Central Time, Monday morning, March 31
Proposal Reviews (internal and external)	May 30
Applicants Notified	June 6
Application Packages due	through July 15
Final Decisions/Awards	June-September 30

Review of Proposals in the Specific Request (RFP 2). Proposals in the Specific Request will be evaluated only by USEPA staff and management. Geographic distribution and the need to maintain State and Tribal participation in the LaMPs and RAPs will be considered in evaluations and recommendations. The schedule for Proposals in the Specific Request will be consistent with the schedule above.

Review of Proposals in the Request for Conferences and Printing (RFP 3) and the Grants Servicing Intermediary (RFP 4). Proposals will be evaluated only by USEPA staff and management. Deadlines and schedules vary. See RFPs 3 and 4 for additional information.

II. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS (Amounts, Eligibility, Notification, etc.)

Amounts, Targets, and Number of Projects. Estimates of dollar amounts and numbers of projects are included as planning targets for the benefit of Applicants. The actual amounts and numbers may differ substantially for many reasons, including: EPA's budget and operating plan have not been approved; the number and quality of meritorious, technically qualified Proposals is unknown; and EPA seeks a geographic balance among selected projects. EPA reserves the right to select all or none of the Proposals tendered.

Budget/Project Schedule Considerations. In developing a Proposal, applicants should consider that they must provide a Non-Federal Match of at least 5% of the total project cost, which may be provided in cash or in-kind. Applicants should also consider the Federal requirement that projects involving data collection require an *approved Quality Assurance Project Plan prior to commencing environmental data collection* - extra funds and extra time may be needed for its development.

Clarification/Revisions. Applicants may be contacted for clarification and for the purpose of negotiating changes in project terms and amounts.

Confidentiality. Applicants should clearly mark information they consider confidential, and EPA will make final confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B. However, we discourage submission of any confidential material. Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Cost Principles, Administrative and Audit Requirements. The successful applicant will be required to adhere to the Federal grants requirements, particularly those found in applicable OMB circulars on **Cost Principles** (A-21, A-87, or A-122), **Administrative Requirements** (A-102 or 110), and **Audit Requirements** (A-133) available from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/>.

Deadline for Proposal Receipt: 8:00 AM Central Time, Monday morning, March 31, 2003; except that the portion of RFP 3 for Ecological Conferences, Printing, and General Conferences allows Proposals to be submitted at any time until funding is exhausted. GLNPO will post a notice at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html> when funding is exhausted.

Dispute Resolution Process. If necessary, a dispute resolution process in accordance with 40 CFR 30.63 and Part 31, subpart F will be implemented.

Eligibility. Assistance (through grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements) is available pursuant to Clean Water Act §104(b)(3) for activities in the Great Lakes Basin and in support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance identifies this assistance as: 66.469, Great Lakes Program. State pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not. Only State, Tribal, and interstate or intertribal agencies are eligible under RFP 2B (a portion of the RAP/LAMP solicitation). Preference is given to US organizations over foreign organizations; however, Proposals for coordinated, binational projects are encouraged.

Existing Projects. Applicants seeking more funding under existing awards should apply through this Proposal process.

Grants Servicing Intermediary. Following Proposal selection, Ecological Protection and Restoration and other grants may be issued through an “intermediary” organization which would make and administer grant sub-awards. See RFP 4 for additional information.

Ineligible Activities. Under this solicitation, USEPA will not fund: "construction grant" projects; basic research; land acquisition; or general operating support. Education/outreach or conferences are only eligible activities when integrated within a larger project or as specifically requested in RFP 1B (Pollution Prevention and Reduction) and RFP 3 (Conferences and Printing).

Multiple Proposals. If your organization submits multiple Proposals and chooses to rank them, please use PSS2003 to identify an overall contact (including phone, e-mail, and address) and send a single, coordinated submittal. Ranking information could, instead, be sent by e-mail to avalos.elias@epa.gov. Individuals from the following organizations have offered to serve as their organizations’ contacts.

- Indiana DEM: Kathy Luther (219-881-6730)
- Indiana DNR: Laurie Rounds (317-233-0132)
- Michigan DEQ: Rick Hobrla (517-335-4173)
- Minnesota PCA: Pat Carey (218-723-4744)
- Minnesota DNR: Pat Collins (218-834-6612)
- New York DEC: Donald Zelazny (716-851-7130)
- Ohio EPA: Julie Letterhos (614-644-2871)
- Pennsylvania DEP: Lori Boughton (814-332-6155)
- Wisconsin DNR: Linda Talbot (608-266-8148)
- Army Corps of Engineers: Jan Miller (312-353-6354)
- Great Lakes Commission: Michael Donahue (734-971-9135)
- TNC: Lois Morrison (312-759-8017)

Notification: We will confirm Proposal receipt within: (i) one week for E-Mail submissions or (ii) two weeks for regular mail. Shortly after the Proposal deadline, we will post Proposal information (including Applicant, Title, and GLNPO identification number) at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>. ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD CHECK THIS POSTING TO VERIFY THAT THEIR PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL DATABASE. Contact avalos.elias@epa.gov if you do not receive a confirmation or if your Proposal is not posted. GLNPO will contact all Applicants to tell them whether or not they will be asked to submit Application Packages.

III. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR RFP 1, RFP 2, AND RFP 3 Including "Line-by-Line" Instructions and Examples from Previous Years

RFP 1, 2, and 3 Electronic Submissions. *The following information applies only to RFP 1, 2, and 3. Grants Servicing Intermediary applicants will not use the electronic submission process, but should request an application package as described in RFP 4.*

Getting Started. Please register now at <<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2003guid/register2003fund.html>>, so that we can update you on our funding process, including any changes to deadlines. There are 4 steps you must take to submit a Proposal:

1. Get the free PSS2003 software <<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2003guid/pss2003/index.html>>
2. Read and follow instructions.
3. Enter and edit your Proposal submission.
4. Complete and submit your Proposal.

Developing Proposals. Proposals should be developed using the GLNPO Proposal Submission System (PSS2003) available from: <<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2003guid/pss2003/index.html>> . Please read the instructions for getting started and for using PSS2003. We encourage you to call Tony Kizlauskas (312-353-8773) or Pranas Pranckevicius (312-353-3437) for technical assistance or if you do not have access to a PC. PSS2003 does not work on Macintosh computers.

Examples. Proposal examples from previous years are available at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/modelsubmis.html>

Proposal Format. PSS2003 generates the correct format. For your convenience, the following page provides "line-by line" instructions for the required Proposal components, allowing you to compose your work off line, then copy and paste it into the program. PSS2003 limits your Proposal to about five pages.

Proposal Submission. Electronic submissions are required. Attach a copy of the data file, "APL2003.TPS," from the C:\PSS2003 subdirectory and e-mail it to: glnpo.funding@epa.gov . If sending a disk, include the "APL2003.TPS" file, and mail it to:

USEPA - GLNPO (G-17J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590
Attention: Elias Avalos

“Line-by-Line” Instructions for PSS2003 Data Entry
(Tabs refer to data entry in the Proposal Submission System)

APPLICANT INFORMATION (TAB 1)

Applicant. Enter Applicant (Organization) Name, Contact Person's Title (choose one from the drop-down list), Contact Person's Name, Address, City, State (choose one from the drop-down list), Phone, Fax, and E-mail. For Phone and Fax numbers, enter the 10-digit number without any punctuation, spaces, etc.

Type of Organization. Choose one from a drop-down list including: State; Interstate Agency or Commission; Sub-state or special purpose district; County; Municipality; Federal Agency; College or University; Tribal Organization; Federally funded research and development center; or Other.

PROJECT SUMMARY INFORMATION (TAB 2)

Project Title. 60 character limit.

Abstract. One paragraph synopsis which can stand alone as a project description. (2,000 character limit)

Duration. Specify project duration from 0.5 years up to 2 years (select from the spin-box list).

Category. Choose only 1 from a drop-down list. Make sure you are eligible for that category. *Do not submit the same project to multiple categories.*

Rank Within Category. Optional. Can be used if multiple Proposals are being submitted within the same project category from the same organization. To only be filled in after rank is assigned by the organization's coordinator.

GEOGRAPHIC APPLICABILITY (TAB 3)

Applicable State. Select Great Lakes State(s) which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on appropriate boxes).

Applicable Lake Basin. Identify Lake Basin(s) which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on appropriate boxes.)

Applicable Geographic Initiative. If applicable, identify geographic initiative which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on box for Greater Chicago, Northeast Ohio, NW Indiana, Southeast Michigan, or Lake St. Clair.)

Applicable Areas of Concern. Identify the Areas of Concern affected by the Project: Choose the primary affected Area of Concern from the drop-down list. List any others in the field entitled "Other Affected AOCs." (1,000 character limit)

PROBLEM STATEMENT (TAB 4)

Problem Statement. Describe the issue that will be addressed and its relevance to the Great Lakes, particularly to needs and priorities (especially in LaMPs and RAPs) for Lakes, AOCs, and other geographic initiatives. (4,500 character limit)

Proposed Work/Outcome. Outline what will be done and how. Describe anticipated environmental results, referencing affected pollutants, industry sectors, economic impacts, habitats, and/or species. (11,000 character limit)

Additional Information. Estimate chemicals “collected or prevented” for Contaminated Sediments and for Pollution Prevention and Reduction projects. State the number of acres of aquatic, wetland, riverine, and terrestrial Great Lakes habitat to be positively impacted for Habitat projects. *Note - Select the “category” (Tab 2) first.* (1,000 character limit)

PROJECT MILESTONES (TAB 5)

Milestones. Specify milestones and/or final products and projected due dates (Month/Year, in MM/YYYY format). You may describe up to 8 milestones/final products, including Project Start and End. Please be aware that if you submit an Application Package in May, your project could begin in June; however, most usually begin in September or October.

EJ/EDUCATION APPLICABILITY (TAB 6)

Environmental Justice. Check box and include a description if part of the project addresses “Environmental Justice.” (2,000 character limit)

Education/Outreach Component. Check box, if the project includes an education/outreach component. If applicable, describe the target audience and how that group would be impacted by the project in the field entitled "Education/Outreach Description". (2000 character limit)

PROJECT BUDGET (TAB 7)

Budget. Fill in the applicable budget items in the table to show how USEPA funds and Applicant matching funds will be used for personnel/salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contract costs, and other costs. You may include a separate line for indirect costs if your organization has in place (or will negotiate) an "indirect cost rate" from a cognizant Federal agency. Budget should represent the total which would be requested from USEPA for the project's duration (up to two years). Funding will be awarded as a "lump sum" and is not assured for subsequent years. Do not include commas when entering the budget amounts. Totals will be calculated automatically or by pressing “calculate.”

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING (TAB 8)

Other Funding. If others are expected to contribute funds to your Project, list the Name of the Providers, Amounts Provided, and Commitments made by each. (2,000 character limit)

COLLABORATION (TAB 9)

Collaboration/Community-based Support. Describe plans and status of collaboration amongst the public, private, and independent sectors. Evidence of support will be requested later.

III. USEPA CONTACTS FOR GREAT LAKES PRIORITIES

USEPA's role in the Great Lakes is to steer the U.S. Great Lakes effort and to provide timely technical support and assistance, coordinating not only with U.S. partners, but also with Canadian counterparts. Our Great Lakes efforts are thus organized in a nested structure.

- The Great Lakes National Program Office steers and coordinates activities at a Basin-wide level.
- Regional Teams and Programs steer and coordinate activities focusing on the Great Lakes, their AOCs, and other targeted geographic areas. Region 5 Teams serve leadership and coordinating roles. They influence funding decisions of USEPA media programs, such as Air, Water, and Waste, as well as National Initiatives, such as Brownfields. They can also help identify funding sources and priorities for LaMPs, RAPs, and other initiatives.
- Coordination and integration of State, Tribal, and Federal environmental programs can be done through Environmental Performance Partnership Agreements. Projects can also be developed outside of that structure.

Contacts below can provide information about their Great Lakes priorities and funding opportunities. Since Proposal evaluations consider needs and priorities of geographic areas, particularly for LaMPs and RAPs, we encourage consultations. Note that e-mail addresses use the convention "lastname.firstname@epa.gov". See also http://www.epa.gov/region5/business/funding_sources2003.htm and www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2002guid/Roadmap2002b.pdf

GLNPO:

- Contaminated Sediments: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369)
- Pollution Prevention/Reduction: Edwin Smith (312-353-6571)
- Habitat Protection: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690)
- Invasive Species: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369)
- Strategic or Emerging Issues: Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612)
- <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>.

USEPA REGION 2 (INCLUDING NY)

- Barbara Belasco (212-637-3848)

USEPA REGION 3 (INCLUDING PA)

- Larry Merrill (215-814-5452)

REGION 5 (INCLUDING IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, AND WI)

"PRIORITY APPROACH" TEAMS

- Sediments: Bonnie Eleder (312-886-4885)
- Toxics Reduction: Dan Hopkins (312-886-5994)
- Ecosystem: John Perrecone (312-353-1149)
- Environmental Justice: Karla Owens (312-886-5993)

REGION 5 "PRIORITY GEOGRAPHIC/PLACE" TEAMS

- L. Erie: Daniel O'Riordan (312-886-7981)
- L. Michigan / NW Indiana: Judy Beck (312-353-3849)
- L. Superior: Elizabeth LaPlante (312-353-2694)
- Northeast Ohio: Lyn Luttner (440-250-1711)
- Greater Chicago: Mardi Klevs (312-353-5490)
- SE Michigan: Laura Lodisio (312-886-7090)

REGION 5 WATER PROGRAM

Nonpoint Source Pollution

- Thomas Davenport (312-886-0209)

Drinking Water

- William Spaulding (312-886-9262)

Water Pollution Control - State and Interstate Program Support.

- Headquarters - Carol Crow (202-260-0644)
- Regional - Gene Wojcik (312-886-0174)

AIR PROGRAM

Region 5 - Erin White (312-886-4587)

Region 2 - Raymond Werner (212-637-3706)

HQ - Randy McDonald (919-541-5402)

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

Region 5 - James Hahnenberg (312-353-4213)

www.epa.gov/R5Super/

Brownfields

Region 5: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

Region 3: Tom Stolle (215-814-3129)

Region 2: Larry D'Andrea (212-637-4314)

RCRA WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Region 5: General §3011 - Richard Traub (312-353-8319); Haz. waste/solid waste - Mary Setnicar (312-886-0976)

Region 3: Wayne Naylor (215-814-3385)

Region 2: Ray Basso (212-637-4109)/ Michael Infurna (212-637-4177)

Pollution Prevention

Region 5: Phil Kaplan (312-353-4669)

Region 3: Jeff Burke (215-814-2761)

Region 2: Deborah Freeman (212-637-3584)

PESTICIDES/TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

Region 5: Toxics - Seth Diblee (312-356-5992); Ag. Clean Sweeps - Margaret Jones (312-353-5790)

Region 3: Pesticides, lead, and asbestos- Harry Daw (215-814-3244); PCBs and EPCRA - Aquanetta Dickens (215-814-2080)

Region 2: Pesticides - Adrian Enache (732-321-6771); Toxics - David Greenlaw (908-321-6817)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

HQ: Diane Berger/Sheri Jojokian (202-260-8619)

Region 5: Megan Gavin (312-353-5282)

Region 3: Judy Braunston (215-814-5536)

Region 2: Teresa Ippolito (212-637-3671)

GREAT LAKES RESEARCH.

Inhouse research: Steven Bradbury (218-529-5025)

Science to Achieve Results (STAR) <http://es.epa.gov/ncerqa/>

IV. GENERAL CRITERIA

All Proposals will be evaluated for conformity with the Proposal Requests, applying any Specific Criteria described in the RFPs and the following General Criteria. Does the project Proposal: (i) State a Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action? (ii) Have Scientific/ Professional Merit? (iii) Demonstrate Innovation? (iv) Demonstrate Performance Capability? (v) Involve Diverse Stakeholders? (vi) Have the appropriate Geographic Scope? (vii) Disseminate Results effectively? (viii) Outline an Appropriate Budget? (ix) Leverage additional resources? (x) Most closely match GLNPO's mission, instead of that of Other Funding Sources? We especially welcome projects which address Environmental Justice and have community-based support. Applicants with a history of performance problems (such as delays in completing quality system documentation, delivering progress or final reports, or closeout documents) will receive less consideration than Applicants with a good performance record.

Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action: Funding will be directed to Proposals showing the most potential, whether direct or indirect, to protect and/or restore the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem, emphasizing the projects proposed in this Funding Guidance. Successful Proposals will explain how they address issues most relevant to Great Lakes policymakers in a value-adding way or result in practical activities which promise measurable progress to protect and/or restore the Great Lakes Basin.

Scientific/Professional Merit: Soundness of approach is a key consideration, including design, objectives, and scientific viability of the project.

Innovation: We favor projects which do not duplicate prior efforts or which build upon prior efforts in value-adding ways.

Performance Capability: The experience and resources (including facilities, equipment, and instrumentation, if applicable) of applicants should be shown to be appropriate to perform the work proposed. Applicants with existing EPA projects should be up-to-date on reporting and other requirements.

Stakeholders: Plans to work with appropriate partners and customers, for instance government agencies, community groups, businesses, or stakeholders for Lakewide Management and Remedial Action Plans, will be considered.

Geographic Scope: Projects which aim to serve environmental needs identified by Lakewide Management and Remedial Action Plans will be considered on this basis. Support from LaMP and/or RAP committees will be considered.

Disseminate Results: Plans to disseminate project results will be considered. Broad public dissemination is favored.

Appropriate Budget: Applicants must suggest a budget reasonably in keeping with the level of work proposed and with expected benefits.

Leveraging. We favor projects which leverage additional resources from other organizations. The leveraged amount will be considered.

Other Funding Sources: Projects for which funding could reasonably be expected from other sources will receive less consideration. Some NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and Natural Resources Conservation Service and USEPA funding opportunities are described in the 2002 Great Lakes Roadmap to Federal Funding Opportunities at < <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2002guid/Roadmap2002b.pdf> >.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, State, local, and Tribal programs and policies.

USEPA-GLNPO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS*

1. General Request

A. Contaminated Sediments - \$900,000 targeted for 8 to 12 projects. USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office requests Proposals for funding, technical support, and vessel support to assist contaminated sediment work in priority geographic areas in the Great Lakes. GLNPO's emphasis and ultimate objective is to assist in bringing about remediation of contaminated sediments at these sites. GLNPO WILL NOT FUND BASIC RESEARCH FOCUSING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR TREATING CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS.

We are particularly interested in the following projects:

- ▶ sediment assessments [chemical (including Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy priority pollutants), physical, biological] to better map contamination at a site.
- ▶ sediment assessments to support the development of remedial alternatives pursuant to the Great Lakes Legacy Act.
- ▶ conduct evaluations of remedial alternatives for sites moving toward remediation pursuant to the Great Lakes Legacy Act.
- ▶ data collection to support a review of the short-term and long-term effects of remedial alternatives on human health and the environment
- ▶ beneficial re-use of sediments, including associated human and ecological risk.
- ▶ monitoring/assessment projects focusing on post-remedial investigations.
- ▶ on the ground sediment remediation.
- ▶ demonstrations of innovative sediment treatment technologies and innovative sediment assessment techniques.

Projects should include an education outreach component. The specific needs and priorities of Lakewide Management Plans and geographic initiatives such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern will be considered in evaluations, particularly:

- *Lake Erie and the St. Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basin.* Projects addressing the chemicals associated with the beneficial use impairments as identified by the Lake Erie LaMP (PCBs, mercury, PAHs, lead, chlordane, dioxins, DDE/DDT, mirex), with priority given to projects involving PCBs and mercury.
- *Lake Huron basin.* Projects investigating contaminated sediment in the Tittibawassee and Saginaw Rivers and Saginaw Bay, including the characterization, mapping, or modeling the transport of sediment and flood plain soil contamination with an emphasis on dioxin like compounds.
- *Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and Niagara River basins.* Projects which address the critical pollutants as identified in the 1998 Stage I Lake Ontario LaMP and/or the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan and projects which remediate sediments in Areas of Concern.
- *Lake Michigan basin.* Projects for (i) the possible beneficial reuse of contaminated sediments and (ii) tools and models for public education and involvement in sediment cleanups and sediment pollution prevention plans.
- *Lake Superior basin.* In the Lake Superior basin, high priority will be placed on projects addressing the St. Louis River or St. Mary's River Areas of Concern and their directives to remove impairments of beneficial uses. In addition, we are particularly interested in projects on the following three sites: 1) Ashland/NSP Lakefront Site in Wisconsin; 2) Stamp Sands of Keweenaw Peninsula, MI; and 3) Boyd Creek Site, WI. We are also interested in sampling and routine monitoring projects associated with the tributaries of Lake Superior, especially those with upstream industrial or other activities.

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

Project Selection Criteria. GLNPO's Proposal evaluation will seek a balance among sediments activities, focusing on on-the-ground cleanup, assessment and characterization of sediment sites, and evaluation of remedial alternatives. Proposals will be evaluated using the descriptions of the requested projects, the General Criteria, and the following Specific Criteria:

- ◇ Availability and assessment of baseline conditions for remediation Proposals.
- ◇ Likelihood that remedial measures, including enforcement, will result.
- ◇ Public outreach component of activity.

Contact: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369/ tuchman.marc@epa.gov)

B. Pollution Prevention and Reduction (Binational Toxics Strategy) - \$500,000 targeted for 8-15 projects. GLNPO requests Proposals for pollution prevention, reduction or elimination projects, with an emphasis on substances which are persistent and toxic, especially those which bioaccumulate, in the Great Lakes basin.

Priority will be given to those projects that support the goals of the US-Canada Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS). See <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/bns/strategy.html>. The Strategy establishes reduction challenges for twelve “Level I” persistent toxic substances: alkyl-lead, benzo(a)pyrene [B(a)P], hexachlorobenzene (HCB), dioxins and furans, mercury, octachlorostyrene (OCS), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and five canceled pesticides (aldrin/dieldrin, chlordane, DDT, mirex, and toxaphene). The US has also identified “Level II” substances for pollution prevention activities: 1,2,3,4-tetrachlorobenzene; 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene; pentachlorobenzene; hexachlorobutadiene; and hexachlorocyclohexanes.

We are particularly interested in the following projects:

- ▶ Source characterization: Assessment of potential sources of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- ▶ Indicators of progress toward virtual elimination of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- ▶ Proper disposal of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- ▶ Foster adoption of innovative products that would reduce the use and release of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances and that are consistent with the principles of EPA’s *Environmentally-Preferable Purchasing Program* (see <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp>).
- ▶ Implementation of projects/actions delivering toxic reductions/pollution prevention in sectors targeted by the GLBTS. Expected environmental outcomes must be quantified.
- ▶ Foster adoption of green technologies. In this context, green technology involves reducing or eliminating the use or generation of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances - including feedstocks, reagents, solvents, products and byproducts-during design, manufacture and use of chemical products and processes.
- ▶ Outreach to achieve source reductions from targeted sectors or groups, e.g., designing a campaign for educating the XX industry on ways to reduce usage and releases of YY chemical.

Project Selection Criteria. Proposals will be evaluated using the descriptions of the requested projects, the General Criteria, and the following Specific Criteria. GLNPO will favor Proposals for projects which:

- ◇ Are listed above.
- ◇ Include an evaluation of the potential reductions of pollutants in the environment
- ◇ Jointly target common goals under the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy and the LaMPs.

The specific needs and priorities of Lakewide Management Plans and geographic initiatives such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern will be considered in evaluations, particularly:

- *Lake Erie and St. Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basins.* Projects addressing the chemicals associated with the beneficial use impairments as identified by the Lake Erie LaMP (PCBs, mercury, PAHs, lead, chlordane, dioxins, DDE/DDT, mirex) with priority given to projects involving PCBs and mercury or which reduce the release of atrazine to the waters of Lake Erie.
- *Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River and Niagara River basins.* Projects which:
 - (i) address pollutants identified in the 1998 Stage I Lake Ontario LaMP (PCBs, DDTs, mercury, mirex, dieldrin, dioxins), and emerging toxics such as PBDE as well as projects along the Niagara River which address the priority toxics identified in the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan.
 - (ii) reduce mercury or other pollutants by building upon, or initiating projects similar in concept to auto mercury switch/ thermometer replacement; mercury collections from medical situations; electronic equipment and pesticide collections and education; demonstrate innovative technologies for control of pollutant loadings from the watershed.

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

- *Lake Michigan Basin.* Innovative, demonstration projects which:
 - (i) address dioxin and other pollutants formed from "burning trash in barrels."
 - (ii) further agricultural clean sweep efforts.
 - (iii) collect and phase out PCB and Mercury.
 - (iv) prevent pollution from pesticides, including substitution projects.

- *Lake Superior Basin.* Projects which characterize sources and the indicators of progress toward zero discharge in the Lake Superior basin and otherwise address the main joint priorities of the Lake Superior Workgroup and the Lake Superior Forum. These include projects which:
 - (i) address the top mercury commitments of the LaMP, including workshops; education/outreach; abandoned white goods containing mercury and PCBs; and taconite mercury treatability.
 - (ii) address other LaMP mercury commitments such as mercury reduction of the main sources of environmental release in the Lake Superior basin: energy production (electric utility sector), taconite mining and ore processing, mercury releases at wastewater treatment facilities, and mercury releases from landfills, in order to meet the chemical load reduction schedules set in the Lake Superior Stage II LaMP document.
 - (iii) enhance burn barrel outreach and education, especially in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.
 - (iv) otherwise address the chemicals identified as critical pollutants; PCBs, dioxins, DDT and metabolites, toxaphene, chlordane, aldrin/dieldrin, mercury, hexachlorobenzene and octachlorostyrene.
 - (v) address in-basin load estimates of mercury, dioxin and hexachlorobenzene that have a low degree of confidence but may represent a significant portion of the load from the Stage 2 and 3 inventories (e.g., small incinerators, treated wood or mercury products in the solid waste stream, and mercury release from landfills and solid waste transfer stations).
 - (vi) provide demonstration projects that significantly reduce non-point loadings of critical and other pollutants originating from the development of previously undeveloped land such as new parking lots and highway construction.
 - (vii) address the long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants to Lake Superior, especially those projects developed in conjunction with other international efforts - i.e., the United Nations Committee for Environmental Cooperation.

- *Lake Huron basin.* Priority pollutants for pollution prevention and reduction efforts in Lake Huron include PCBs, Chlordane, Dioxin, and Mercury. Proposals are also requested that demonstrate innovative approaches to address the long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants to Lake Huron.

Contacts: Ted Smith (312-353-6571 smith.edwin@epa.gov)

Further information: Please see <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/p2.html>

Please note: The Specific Request for Proposals for LaMP/RAP Development and Implementation also requests pollution prevention and reduction Proposals for Lake Superior.

C. Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration - \$760,000 targeted for 8 to 15 projects. USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office requests Proposals for projects that demonstrate practices and tools for protecting and restoring aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland ecosystems. Applicants should note that acquisition projects will not be considered.

Basinwide Proposals having large-scale ecological implications for the Great Lakes ecosystem, and multi-organizational, binational partnerships are encouraged. Regional Proposals must be consistent with Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) priorities described below, with Tribal priorities, or with regional ecological protection and restoration planning effort priorities. Local or site-specific Proposals must implement techniques that demonstrate protection and restoration measures or the need for standard protection and restoration techniques, and define expected outcomes.

Project Selection Criteria. GLNPO's evaluation process for ecological protection and restoration Proposals will seek a balance among basinwide, regional, and local projects. Proposals will be evaluated using the descriptions of the requested projects, the General Criteria, and the following Specific Criteria. The following Specific Criteria will also be considered in basinwide, regional and local Proposal reviews. Because each Proposal is reviewed from a holistic perspective, not every criteria needs to be present for a project to be selected. However, projects that meet more than one criteria will have a greater chance for success. The Specific Criteria for ecological protection and restoration are:

- Biological importance on a regional, basinwide or global scale.
- Project activities will test new techniques or approaches to ecological protection and restoration.
- Positive impact of the expected environmental results identified by the applicant.
- Effectiveness of education and outreach component.
- Potential for formation of new, multi-organizational, binational partnership(s).
- A significant number of acres of aquatic, riverine, wetland, and terrestrial habitat is protected or restoration efforts begun.

In addition, special consideration will be given to Proposals for the following projects at the basinwide, regional, and local scales:

Basinwide:

- Organize a multi-organizational, binational partnership that proposes to begin protection and restoration activities on an ecosystem currently lacking overarching, strategic management. Components of the project could include species and ecological community inventories, conducting ecological assessments, building on State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) indicators, monitoring, or strategic planning. The Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Consortium (<http://www.glc.org/wetlands/>) and the International Alvar Initiative (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/ecopage/alvar/>) are two examples of existing GLNPO-funded multi-organizational partnerships. Examples of ecosystem types currently lacking overarching, strategic management are Great Lakes islands, sand dunes, and inland wetlands.
- Organize a multi-organizational, binational partnership to address habitat fragmentation as it relates to species and ecological community movement in response to climatic changes and/or land use pressures.

Regional:

Lake Erie Basin

- Refine or develop LaMP and State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) indicators for Lake Erie species and habitats.
- Monitor and measure the results of projects listed in the Lake Erie LaMP.

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River Basin, Niagara River Basin.

- The highest priority project for Lake Ontario is developing a framework for a **habitat prioritization strategy** which would be used to target future habitat restoration and conservation. Proposals for such a framework, or early stages of such a framework would be considered, including development of an inventory of all past and ongoing assessment, restoration, and conservation projects being carried out by all agencies and environmental groups working in the Lake Ontario basin. The inventory would include: (i) a synthesis of findings from these projects, for each habitat type (for example, through the construction of GIS maps, or the modification of existing maps, for each habitat type that includes the location and condition of existing habitats and the location of past and present habitat restoration and conservation projects); (ii) a gap analysis that can be used to target future assessment projects; and (iii) the identification of vital habitats that can be used to prioritize and target future restoration or conservation efforts. *\$60,000 has been specifically set aside for 1-2 prioritization strategy projects, and additional money from this category could be made available.*
- Address the loss of fish and wildlife habitat in these watersheds, including the identification and assessment of existing habitat types (nearshore, coastal, open water, etc.)
- Restore, conserve or enhance vital habitats.
- Gather information leading to development of additional Lake Ontario LaMP ecosystem indicators and measures for appropriate wildlife species or habitat.

Lake Michigan Basin

- Demonstrate, in the coastal area of the lake or major tributaries, ecological restoration of brownfields and other degraded habitats; prioritization and planning of local restoration activities that utilize and/or add to Lake Michigan habitat data; and in urban areas, the utilization of the Chicago Wilderness biodiversity recovery plan model.
- Protect and/or restore wetlands and other nearshore features important to the health and spawning of Lake Michigan aquatic species, including development of plans for conservation buffers and dune protection.

Lake Superior Basin

- Protect or restore stream/tributary habitat so as to produce a healthy tributary environment, including the restoration of both the land and water interface. Projects should be connected to a monitoring and evaluation project.
- Promote the achievement of Great Lakes Fishery Commission fish community objectives, including the identification of critical habitat for key fish species which will allow development of quantitative goals for self-sustaining fish stocks; and the development of a standardized monitoring program to evaluate the status of the pelagic fish community of Lake Superior.
- Implement multi-jurisdictional restoration or protection watershed or forest stewardship management plan recommendations.
- Restore lost or degraded ecological components or processes in Lake Superior forest communities.
- Make available local sources of plant material (seeds or seedlings) for restoration or vegetation management projects.
- Protect or restore rare ecological communities (e.g., pine barrens).

Lake Huron Basin

- Assessment of the biodiversity of Lake Huron's nearshore habitat and the identification of protection and restoration priorities.
- Investigate the impacts of dams and identify potential efforts to restore natural flows and increase tributary fish spawning habitat, including an analysis of management options for specific dams, i.e., case studies.

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- Demonstrate the connections between coastal marshes and fishery and wildlife habitat in relationship to recent lake level fluctuations.
- Assess off-shore reef habitat in Saginaw Bay and Tawas.

Local:

- Implement techniques that demonstrate on-the-ground habitat protection or restoration in a particular locale.
- Show that habitat will actually be protected or restored at a particular site.
- Define the relationship of the project to regional protection and restoration efforts.
- Make an effort to include stakeholders in project planning or implementation.

Contact: Karen Rodriguez, 312-353-2690, rodriguez.karen@epa.gov

Please note:

- Lake Ontario Habitat Proposals are all intended to be submitted under this RFP 1C.
- The Specific Request for Proposals for LaMP/RAP Development and Implementation requests a specific Proposal for implementation of habitat recommendations from the Habitat Plan for the Lower St. Louis River RAP Lake Superior that is intended to be submitted under RFP 2A.v.b.
- Following Proposal selection, Ecological Protection and Restoration and other grants may be issued through an “intermediary” organization which would make and administer grant sub-awards. See RFP 4 for additional information.
- RFP 3 requests Proposals for ecological conferences, workshops, meetings and reprints of education materials.

D. Invasive Species - \$300,000 targeted for 4 to 8 projects. GLNPO requests Proposals to address invasive (non-indigenous) aquatic and terrestrial species in the Great Lakes Basin with an emphasis on prevention.

We are particularly interested in the following projects, with the highest priority given to the first three topic areas:

1. Development and demonstration of strong and innovative programs to prevent the introduction of new invasive species (aquatic or terrestrial) into the Great Lakes Basin.
2. Development and demonstration of strong and innovative programs to control the spread of invasive species within and from the Great Lakes Basin.
3. Documenting ecological impacts of invasive species on the Great Lakes Basin food web.
4. Documenting the economic impacts or potential economic impacts of invasive species already in the Great Lakes Basin.
5. Projects which identify chemical, physical, and biological conditions that promote the establishment of invasive species.
6. Development of innovative education/outreach projects.

Project Selection Criteria. GLNPO's Proposal evaluation will consider priorities associated with invasive species for geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans; however, as funding for this category is limited, emphasis will be placed on projects of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability. Proposals will be evaluated using the descriptions of the requested projects, the General Criteria, and the following Specific Criteria:

- ◇ Potential for project to benefit the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- ◇ Transferability across the Great Lakes Basin and beyond.
- ◇ Potential to advance government and private partnerships and community involvement.

Contact: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369/ tuchman.marc@epa.gov)

E. Strategic or Emerging Issues - \$260,000 targeted for 4 to 8 projects. In order to better fulfill its mission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, GLNPO is requesting Proposals for four to eight innovative Great Lakes environmental projects which deal with strategic or emerging issues of basin-wide importance.

We expect that projects in this area would:

- not fit neatly under other existing GLNPO funding categories (i.e. Contaminated Sediments, Pollution Prevention, Ecological Protections and Restoration, Invasive Species, or the specific Proposals requested for LaMP and RAP implementation) but might contain elements of one or more of those categories;
- address assessment, causes and/or effects of chemical or biological pollutants not in the regulatory “mainstream;”
- cut across or overlap two or more of the foregoing areas; or
- address some other unanticipated area.

We especially encourage projects which identify and propose solutions/mitigation for strategic or emerging issues of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability. Areas of particular interest include:

- ▶ Chemicals of potential environmental concern such as polybrominated flame retardants, pharmaceuticals, and endocrine disruptors.
- ▶ Causes and effects of observed changes in components of the Great Lakes ecosystem (for example, nutrient loads; changes in lower food web assemblages, including *Mysis*, *Diporeia*, benthos and plankton; and effects of these change on the lake fisheries).
- ▶ Linkages between changing conditions in the Great Lakes ecosystem and human health.
- ▶ Social and economic issues affecting Great Lakes management and environmental decision-making.
- ▶ Harnessing the innovation of market forces in environmental protection via air or water emissions trading

Project Selection Criteria. The emphasis for this category is projects of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability. Proposals will be evaluated using the descriptions of the requested projects, the General Criteria, and the following Specific Criteria:

- ◇ Potential to further the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.
- ◇ Potential to achieve progress under the Great Lakes Strategy.
- ◇ Transferability across the Great Lakes Basin and beyond.
- ◇ Strategic importance, Great Lakes Basin-wide or Lake-wide as applicable.

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USEPA-GLNPO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS***RFP 2 - Specific LaMP/RAP Projects**

This LaMP/RAP Specific Request for Proposals (RFP 2) totals \$1,752,000 to be awarded in the summer and fall of 2003. EPA has worked extensively with States, Tribes, and other partners in development and implementation of the Lakewide Management Plans and Remedial Action Plans. The uniqueness of the individuals and organizations involved with the LaMPs and RAPS have resulted in varying needs, priorities, and schedules; consequently, funding priorities identified in this Funding Guidance vary from Lake to Lake. RFP 2 includes 29 descriptions of specific projects furthering the Lakewide Management Plans and Remedial Action Plans. *Applicants should only apply under RFP 2 for the projects specifically described here; general requests for Proposals are addressed in RFP 1 and RFP 3.*

RFP 2 has two Parts, one difference being that only State, Tribal, and interstate or intertribal agencies are eligible for Part B. For both Parts, work would generally be done during FY2004 and evaluations will be done only by USEPA.

Project Selection Criteria. Proposals will be evaluated using the descriptions of the requested projects, the General Criteria, and the following Specific Criteria with respect to each Lake and its Areas of Concern.

- ▶ Addresses priority environmental needs and priorities identified in the LaMP.
- ▶ Addresses priority environmental needs and priorities identified in a Remedial Action Plan.
- ▶ Project is consistent with LaMP, RAP, and/or Great Lakes Strategy timelines.
- ▶ Evidence of previous successful coordination and collaboration with other organizations involved with the LaMP or RAP.
- ▶ Evidence of community based support, including monetary contributions, steering committee resolutions, adoption of goals and objectives, etc.

Part A. LaMP/RAP Development and Implementation. USEPA requests Proposals for the following specific projects that further Lakewide Management Plan and Remedial Action Plan implementation and development. State pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not.

A.i. Lake Erie projects: LaMP Outreach, Human Health, Technical Transfer, Land-use, Coastal Communities Best Management.

a. LaMP Outreach - \$70,000 targeted for one project. Cooperative development and implementation of public outreach and involvement under the Lake Erie LaMP and related activities such as: coordination of the Lake Erie Public Forum which includes facilitation of at least two Forum meetings, invitations, note-taking and follow-up; maintenance of the Forum web site; and development of the Public Outreach and Involvement section of the 2004 LaMP document.

b. Human Health Dialogue - \$50,000 targeted for 1 project. Conference, workshop, or other effective dialogue addressing human health and chemical usage, resulting in practical tools for reducing chemical usage in the Lake Erie Basin.

c. Technical Transfer - \$80,000 targeted for 1 project. Coordination of the Lake Erie Public Forum's three technical sub-committees (human health, land-use, and emerging issues) which includes facilitation of the

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sub-groups' meetings, including note-taking and follow-up. The project would include development of a technical transfer document to explore how to apply lessons learned from each of the sub-committee's projects to other watersheds.

d. Land-use Assessment Methodology - \$50,000 targeted for one project. Develop and/or implement a land-use assessment methodology to evaluate sub-watersheds against the goals of Lake Erie LaMP section 10; identify land use needs with respect to implementing LaMP Ecosystem Alternative 2; and apply Lake Erie LaMP indicators as developed.

e. Coastal Community Best Management Practices - \$50,000 targeted for 1 project. This pilot project would prioritize a specific coastal community's suite of emerging issues (as defined in Section 5.2 of the Lake Erie LaMP) and test potential best management practices. Priority will be given to projects in Areas of Concern which are transferable to other coastal communities.

Contact: Daniel O'Riordan (312-886-7981 / oriordan.daniel@epa.gov). The **LaMP** is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/erie.html>

A.ii. Lake Huron Projects: Binational Partnership.

Binational Partnership /RAP Development and Implementation - \$40,000 targeted for 1 project. Cooperative development and implementation of Lake Huron LaMP and RAP activities, including: development of the 2004 Lake Huron Binational Partnership (LHBP) update; development of a State of Lake Huron Conference involving multi-organizational presentations of latest science data, pollutants updates, and habitat restoration activities in Lake Huron basin; active participation in LHBP and any relevant subcommittees; develop and provide updates to the LHBP web site and other LHBP tracking databases which describe and track the progress; coordinate LHBP activities with associated RAP activities, including acting as liaison for Saginaw River/Bay RAP and for bi-national St. Marys River RAP; assist coordination of monitoring in Lake Huron.

Contact: James Schardt (312-353-5085 / schardt.james@epa.gov). The Lake Huron **Initiative** is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/huron.html>

A.iii. Lake Michigan Projects: LaMP Implementation, Watershed Training, Environmental Education Boat Tour, RAP / Tributary Monitoring.

a. LaMP Implementation through Facilitating Forum Stakeholders - \$75,000 total targeted for 1-4 projects. Cooperative implementation of Lake Michigan LaMP and RAP goals and priorities through the Lake Michigan Forum. Activities would include (i) facilitating Lake Michigan Forum activities such as public meetings and e-communications (newsletter, web site, and list serve development and maintenance, etc.) and (ii) stewardship indicator development and demonstration.

b. Watershed Training and Implementation - \$50,000 total targeted for 1-5 projects. Recipient will utilize Lake Michigan Watershed Academy Training to facilitate or develop new "Academy" communities or Tribes for training or for implementing watershed plan components of the LaMP or RAP such as Burn Barrels, PCBs, Mercury Phaseouts, Buffers, or land use/habitat restoration. The Lake Michigan Watershed Academy training is modeled after general Watershed Academy training available from:
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/>

c. Environmental Education Boat Tour - \$15,000 targeted for 1 project. Enhance the public's environmental appreciation and awareness of Lake Michigan environmental issues and priorities identified in the LaMP and at the FY03 State of Lake Michigan Conference. In addition to other information necessary to address the General Criteria, the Proposal should provide for docking at 10 Ports in Areas of Concern and specify how the applicant will leverage this funding through its activities.

d. RAP / Tributary Monitoring - \$70,000 total targeted for 1-11 projects. Local Monitoring projects at Lake Michigan tributary mouths would generate data points for a 10 year trend line for the Lake Michigan Mass Balance study and provide information needed for consideration of Area of Concern delisting. The project or projects must provide for coordinated, intensive one-year contaminant monitoring by Lake Michigan States. The existing monitoring assessment is at <http://www.glc.org/monitoring/lakemich>

Contact: Judy Beck (312-353-3849 / beck.judy@epa.gov). The **LaMP** is at:
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/michigan.html>

A.iv. Lake Ontario Projects: Habitat Prioritization; RAP Coordination; Contaminant Source Trackdown; Tributary Load Monitoring; Atmospheric Mercury Deposition.

a. Habitat Prioritization - \$60,000 targeted for 1-2 projects. Development of a framework for a prioritization strategy which would be used to target future habitat restoration and conservation. Proposals for such a framework, or early stages of such a framework would be considered, including development of an inventory of all past and ongoing assessment, restoration, and conservation projects being carried out by all agencies and environmental groups working in the Lake Ontario basin. The inventory would include: (i) a synthesis of findings from these projects, for each habitat type (for example, through the construction of GIS maps, or the modification of existing maps, for each habitat type that includes the location and condition of existing habitats and the location of past and present habitat restoration and conservation projects); (ii) a gap analysis that can be used to target future assessment projects; and (iii) the identification of vital habitats that can be used to prioritize and target future restoration or conservation efforts. *Habitat Prioritization projects should be submitted under Request for Proposals 1C for Ecological (Habitat) Protection and Restoration projects.*

b. RAP Coordination/Management - \$100,000 total targeted for 1-3 projects. Lake Ontario RAP coordination and oversight of the following New York State RAPs: Buffalo River; 18 Mile Creek; and Rochester Embayment. Proposals may address more than one RAP. The Proposal should specify the work that would be done over a 1 year period for a budget of up to \$100,000. The "Proposed Work/Outcome" section of the Proposal should also describe work that could be accomplished over a project period of up to five years for a budget of up to \$100,000 annually. The Proposal should address the following tasks associated with the development and implementation of the RAP strategy(s), including:

- a) Tracking and coordination activities, e.g.,
 - development of RAP quarterly updates and annual RAP status reports that describe and track remediation efforts aimed at eliminating beneficial use impairments identified for each RAP and moving the AOC towards delisting;
 - organization of quarterly meetings of the remedial advisory committees and distribution of meeting minutes to EPA, NYSDEC and Remedial Action Committee participants;
 - coordination of RAP activities with other GL programs such as the Lake Ontario LaMP and the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan; and,
 - coordination of RAPs with related organizations such as the International Joint Commission (IJC) and USEPA/GLNPO; participation and co-operation with any IJC RAP assessments as necessary.
- b) Undertake remediation and ecosystem restoration efforts aimed towards AOC delisting, including:
 - coordinate and implement the remediation of environmental problems as identified in the RAP;
 - coordinate and implement ecosystem restoration efforts as identified in the RAP; and,
 - periodically re-evaluate beneficial use impairments and adjust remediation strategies and ecosystem restoration efforts as necessary for the elimination of impairments and AOC delisting.

c. Contaminant Source Trackdown - \$60,000 total targeted for 1-4 projects. Sampling related to the trackdown of contaminant sources in the Niagara River basin. A recent analysis of existing ambient, sediment and biota contaminant data indicated potential sources of contamination in the following tributaries of the Niagara River. Proposals are requested for further trackdown related sampling that can lead to contaminant source identification, trackdown and remediation. Tributaries are listed in order of priority:

- a. Scajaquada Creek (elevated PCBs in juvenile fish tissue sample);
- b. Little Niagara River above Cayuga Creek mouth (elevated dioxins in sediment);
- c. Black Rock Canal (elevated PCBs in sediment); and,

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

d. Bergholtz Creek, a tributary to Cayuga Creek (elevated PCBs in juvenile fish tissue sample).

d. Tributary Load Monitoring - \$110,000 total targeted for 1-5 projects. To support the Lake Ontario mass balance model, information on tributary loadings from the Black, Oswego, Genesee and Salmon Rivers and 18 Mile Creek is needed for 6 critical Lake Ontario pollutants (PCBs, Hg, dieldrin, DDT, mirex, dioxins/furans). Proposals for monitoring should include:

- the development of monitoring plans;
- seasonal monitoring of Lake Ontario critical pollutants and tributary flows; and,
- the calculation of seasonal and annual loadings of Lake Ontario critical pollutants.

e. Atmospheric Mercury Deposition to Lake Ontario - \$70,000 targeted for 1 project. Conduct intensive sampling for atmospheric mercury deposition to Lake Ontario to determine source allocation, and collect data for inclusion into the Lake Ontario mass balance mercury model. Objectives include:

- Conduct intensive sampling for atmospheric mercury deposition into Lake Ontario;
- Determine source allocation and source regions of deposition; and,
- Estimate loadings of mercury for inclusion of data into the Lake Ontario mass balance model.

Contact: Barbara Belasco (212-637-3848 / belasco.barbara@epa.gov). The **LaMP** is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/ontario.html>

A.v. Lake Superior Projects: LaMP Implementation, RAP Habitat Recommendations, Community Awareness, Energy Conservation.

a. LaMP Implementation through Binational Citizens' Group - \$50,000 total targeted for 1 - 3 projects. Facilitation of a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, binational citizen's group that will undertake projects to implement Lake Superior LaMP commitments. Projects could include implementation of the abandoned white goods mercury reduction project, burn barrel outreach and education (especially in Michigan), and mercury outreach and education to local communities around Lake Superior. The focus is on the implementation of high priority LaMP and RAP goals and commitments. A portion of project should include public meetings held around the Basin for the express purpose of educating/outreaching on specific issues of interest to the Lake Superior stakeholder community. The project could also include outreach through newsletters, web sites, and list serves.

b. RAP Habitat Recommendations - \$35,000 targeted for 1 project. Implementation of habitat recommendations from the Habitat Plan for the Lower St. Louis River RAP < www.StLouisRiver.org >.

c. Community Awareness - \$30,000 targeted for 1 project. Project would enhance community awareness of local issues of critical importance to the Lake Superior LaMP, including burn barrels, habitat protection, mercury use and reduction and water quality issues. The project seeks to foster improved decision making, integrating social, economic and environmental considerations in local Lake Superior communities and requires active participation in the Lake Superior Sustainability Committee. Funding would be used to help manage the project, analyzing data and working with the Lake Superior technical committees to integrate their concerns and issues into the surveys and analyses.

d. Energy Conservation. \$30,000 targeted for 1 project. Project would utilize energy conservation to reduce mercury and dioxins emissions from electric utilities. An example would be development and dissemination of a "tool box" of energy conservation measures that could be used to help local communities reduce their mercury and dioxins emissions. "Tools" could include school energy projects, energy audits of industrial/commercial consumers, green lights, and windpower projects.

Contact: Elizabeth LaPlante (312-353-2694 / laplante.elizabeth@epa.gov). The **LaMP** is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakesuperior/index.html>

Part B. Cooperative LaMP/RAP Partnerships with States, Tribes, and Interstate or Intertribal Organizations. EPA will provide assistance to States, Tribes, Interstate, and Intertribal agencies for cooperative projects developing and implementing Lakewide Management Plans for each of the Great Lakes and Remedial Action Plans for the Areas of Concern. EPA requests Proposals for the following specific projects:

B.i. Lake Erie

a. LaMP Development - Aquatic System. \$50,000 targeted for 1 project. Active participation and representation on behalf of Lake Erie State(s) in (i) the Lake Erie Workgroup and any relevant subcommittees, particularly regarding technical knowledge of the Lake Erie aquatic system, including fisheries and (ii) contributing to writing relevant sections of Lake Erie 2004 LaMP.

b. LaMP Development - Detroit River. \$30,000 targeted for 1 project. Active participation and representation on behalf of Lake Erie State(s) in (i) the Lake Erie Workgroup and any relevant subcommittees, particularly regarding technical knowledge of the Detroit River and the connecting channels and (ii) contributing to writing relevant sections of Lake Erie 2004 LaMP.

c. LaMP Development - Ohio AOCs. \$75,000 targeted for 1 project. Active participation in the Lake Erie Workgroup and any relevant subcommittees from individual or individuals with extensive knowledge of Ohio Areas of Concern. Development and implementation of an outreach strategy for coordination of each of these AOCs in conjunction with priorities in Lake Erie LaMP Section 2.2 and the outreach priorities of the Lake Erie RAPs.

d. LaMP Development - General. \$25,000 targeted for 1 project. Active participation on behalf of Lake Erie State(s) in mutual development and technical writing of the Lake Erie 2004 LaMP, including active participation in the Lake Erie Workgroup and any relevant subcommittees.

Contact: Daniel O’Riordan (312-886-7981 / oriordan.daniel@epa.gov). The **LaMP** is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/erie.html>

B.ii. Lake Michigan

a. State LaMP/RAP Development and Implementation. \$135,000 targeted for 1 to 3 projects. LaMP and RAP development and implementation on behalf of the States of Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin (Illinois activities are covered by existing funding), including active State technical coordinating committee representation and coordination with respect to the monitoring council, Watershed Academy, and RAP technical assistance.

b. Implement LaMP Human Health, Habitat, and Toxics Reduction. \$60,000 targeted for 1 to 3 projects. LaMP implementation on behalf of the States through committee participation, resulting in: coordination of beach managers and monitoring/indicators; development of habitat targets, indicators, and monitoring needs; and development of toxics reduction targets, indicators, and monitoring needs.

c. Tribal LaMP Development and Implementation. \$20,000 targeted for 1 to 2 projects. LaMP development and implementation on behalf of Lake Michigan Tribes through active participation or chairing of Committees for Habitat and Aquatic Nuisance Species; development of projects, indicators, and monitoring needs; and coordination with the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and Tribal fisheries entities.

d. LaMP Implementation through LMMCC. \$25,000 targeted for 1 project. Cooperative implementation of LaMP and RAP goals and priorities through the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council (LMMCC). Activities would include secretariat functions, identification of monitoring needs and gaps, coordination of an intensive monitoring year, and e-communications such as development and/or maintenance of a list serve, newsletter, and on-line monitoring inventory. The LMMCC website is <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/>

Contact: Judy Beck (312-353-3849 / beck.judy@epa.gov). The LaMP is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/michigan.html>

B.iii. Lake Superior

a. State LaMP and RAP Implementation. \$173,000 targeted for 1 to 3 projects. LaMP and RAP implementation and coordination on behalf of the States of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, with special emphasis on addressing LaMP commitments for reduction of critical pollutants and implementing top priority pollutant reduction projects and a focus on the implementation of specific LaMP and RAP projects. Collectively, the project activities would include:

- (1) Point of Contact for State LaMP implementation.
- (2) Identification of the highest priority State LaMP and RAP commitments and help in implementing these projects in coordination with other Federal, State, Provincial and Tribal partners. Help in developing implementation or action plans for other LaMP projects, and identifying and resolving additional environmental problems with State, Provincial and Federal partners in the basin.
- (3) Track source and release information for the purpose of refining chemical reduction baseline estimates and estimating progress in reducing releases of critical pollutants.
- (4) Seek funding, coordinate and manage implementation projects for the forty Lake Superior LaMP critical pollutant commitments. Specifically, help manage the implementation of the joint Superior Workgroup/Forum projects on mercury outreach/education, abandoned white goods and burn barrels. We especially seek project coordination with burn barrel projects in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.
- (5) Provide updates to the LaMP web site < <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakesuperior/index.html> > and other LaMP tracking databases which describe and track the progress on carrying out the commitments in the LaMP.
- (6) Contribute to the development of the LaMP 2004 report with regard to tracking LaMP commitments for individual States.
- (7) Identify and implement mercury load reduction opportunities through participation in the State Mercury Task Force (where feasible) and the mercury TMDL process.
- (8) Review permits and environmental assessments that impact toxic releases into the Lake basins. Work with State permit staff in developing and reviewing Toxics Reduction Plans.
- (9) Attend the respective LaMP Workgroup/Technical meetings, conferences and relevant conference calls.
- (10) Coordinate LaMP activities with associated RAP activities, including acting as liaison for Minnesota with the St. Louis River RAP and for Michigan with the Torch and Deer Lake RAPs.
- (11) Serve on the chemical committee for Lake Superior, and other committees where necessary.
- (12) Help prepare Binational Executive Committee and US Policy Committee briefing materials where necessary. Brief respective senior State environmental managers.

b. Tribal LaMP and RAP Implementation. \$104,000 targeted for 2 to 5 projects. LaMP and RAP implementation and coordination on behalf of Tribal interests, with emphasis on addressing LaMP commitments for reduction of critical pollutants, and implementing top habitat, terrestrial, and aquatic commitments of the LaMP and RAPs:

- (1) LaMP Critical Pollutant activities would include:
 - (A) Active participation on the Superior Workgroup and the Work Group's Chemical Committee. Participate in conference calls, meetings, and conferences. Assist in the implementation of the LaMP's top priority projects from a ceded territory position.
 - (B) Help manage and implement the joint Superior Workgroup/Forum abandoned white goods project, mercury outreach/education and burn barrels outreach/education.
 - (C) Coordinate Tribal participation on the Binational Program Task Force and Superior workgroup. Update and inform Tribes on Chemical Committee activities and issues.

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

- (D) Review scientific papers, attend meetings and conferences related to Lake Superior contaminant issues, especially as they relate to fish consumption advisories and human health.
 - (E) Participate in the development of a coordinated contaminant monitoring strategy for Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes.
 - (F) Assist in the development of tools to evaluate and communicate contaminant data to member Tribes.
 - (G) Participate in the development and implementation of the Great Lakes Human Health network and in the dissemination of relevant human health information to Tribes.
 - (H) Assist in the development of Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission fish contaminant monitoring programs, ensuring consistency with LaMP priorities and goals.
 - (I) Attend Work Group, Task Force, IJC and SOLEC meetings; help prepare relevant briefing documents.
- (2) LaMP habitat activities would include:
- (A) Active participation on the Superior Workgroup and the Work Group's Habitat Committee. Participate in conference calls, meetings, and conferences. Assist in the implementation of the LaMP's top priority Habitat projects from a ceded territory position.
 - (B) Work with Tribes and the Habitat Committee to ensure that key habitats supporting treaty harvests are considered in the development of management strategies for those habitats. Ensure that these strategies are reflected in the LaMP.
 - (C) Continue development of data on key habitat sites.
 - (D) Prepare documents and attend meetings for the Superior Workgroup, Task Force, BEC, IJC, SOLEC and other meetings as necessary.
 - (E) Conduct outreach and education efforts to the Tribal community to support habitat restoration and protection projects.
 - (F) Help to develop a comprehensive set of ecosystem targets
 - (G) Work on balancing effective control measures for exotic species, with preservation and restoration of native species.
 - (H) Help to implement the "Great Lakes Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species".
- (3) LaMP Aquatics activities would include:
- (A) Pursuing funding for, and developing and implementing, high priority LaMP and RAP aquatics commitments including acoustics sampling of the pelagic fish community, mapping of important fish spawning habitat, and habitat rehabilitation of walleye, sturgeon and brook trout.
 - (B) Participation in St. Mary's River RAP Advisory Council; serve as liaison between RAP and Superior Work Group committees, i.e., Aquatics/Habitat.
 - (C) Active participation on the Aquatics Committee of the Lake Superior Work Group. Participate in conference calls, meetings and conferences.
 - (D) Communication of Binational Program/LaMP goals and priorities to constituent Tribal governments; promotion of LaMP goals and priorities to the local community.

Contact: Elizabeth LaPlante (312-353-2694 / laplante.elizabeth@epa.gov). The **LaMP** is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakesuperior/index.html>

USEPA-GLNPO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS***RFP 3 - Great Lakes Conferences, Workshops, Meetings, and Printing of Educational Materials**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) requests Proposals for Great Lakes conferences, workshops, meetings, and printing of educational materials that further the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Proposals are requested in five areas up to the respective targeted amounts below:

A. Ecological (habitat) conferences, workshops, and meetings. \$75,000. The theme must address Great Lakes ecological protection and restoration issues, information, and/or actions.

Contact: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690 / rodriguez.karen@epa.gov)

B. Printing of ecological (habitat) educational environmental materials. \$50,000. The theme must address Great Lakes ecological protection and restoration issues, information, and/or actions.

Contact: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690 / rodriguez.karen@epa.gov)

C. General conference, workshop, meeting, and printing under GLWQA. \$50,000. The theme must address current or emerging strategic issues under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Contact: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690 / rodriguez.karen@epa.gov)

D. State of Lake Michigan Basin Conference. \$20,000 targeted for one project. Project will support a joint multi-organizational presentation in November 2003 of the latest Lake Michigan science data, proposed pollutants updates, and examples of watershed planning tools. Will include provision of proceedings through CD or other means.

Contact: Judy Beck (312-353-3849 / beck.judy@epa.gov)

E. Basin-wide RAP Priorities - \$80,000 targeted for one project. Recipient will coordinate with representatives from all of the U.S. Areas of Concern (both domestic and binational, and to the extent practical, involve Canadian RAP practitioners) to facilitate RAP implementation and information exchange related to topics of common interest. At a minimum, the recipient will sponsor at least two workshops which focus on the development of delisting targets for beneficial use impairments, actions to achieve these targets, and the monitoring required to ensure these targets have been met. These workshops may also address other priority issues identified by the AOC representatives. The recipient may also sponsor web based newsletters, interactive peer to peer exchange, or other effective means of communication, as appropriate. The recipient is strongly encouraged to investigate using GLNPO's Internet-based AOC website (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/index.html>) as a vehicle for disseminating information. The Proposal should include the Applicant's ideas for achieving effective Great Lakes Basin-wide coordination and information exchange to advance environmental progress in the Areas of Concern.

Contact: Mark Elster (312-886-3857 / elster.mark@epa.gov)

Individual Proposal Amounts / Budget Period. Each Proposal for Areas A, B, C, and D may be up to \$20,000 and should have a budget period of one year or less. Any Proposal in these Areas in excess of \$20,000 will be rejected.

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

How to Apply. All applications are to be made electronically using the GLNPO PSS2003 electronic submission in accordance with Section III of the Funding Guidance. Applicants are encouraged to seek pre-application assistance from the identified contacts.

Deadline. Applications requesting funding for Areas A, B, and C may be submitted *at any time* until funding is exhausted. GLNPO will post a notice at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/> when funding is exhausted. Proposals for Areas D and E must be submitted by **8:00 AM Central Time, Monday morning, March 31, 2003.**

Evaluation Process. Three USEPA staff will evaluate each Proposal on a monthly basis throughout the year until the targeted amounts are exhausted. The first review meeting will occur on or about April 1, 2003. GLNPO Management will then make initial decisions. Applicants will be notified of their selection or rejection within approximately 15 days of the review and will be provided with an application package. Successful applicants will then need to submit the necessary assistance agreement application forms. A final decision on funding will be made by the USEPA Approval Official based on the final proposal submitted with the Federal application forms. The USEPA reserves the right to reject all proposals or applications and make no awards.

Timing. If funding is deemed appropriate, the application is complete, and there are no issues to be resolved, USEPA will process an Assistance Agreement or Procurement Request within 60 days of submission of the complete application package. In order to ensure ample time to resolve any issues, applicants are advised to submit an application well in advance of when the funds will be needed.

Criteria. Proposal Evaluations will consider the applicable Funding Guidance General Criteria and how well each Proposal addresses the following criteria:

1. Consistency of the theme with the Proposal request.
2. The conference, workshop, meeting or production of educational material includes participants from as wide a variety of agencies and organizations as appropriate.
3. Results of the conference, workshop, meeting, or the printed educational material, are to be made available to an appropriate audience in a timely manner.
4. Potential to advance government and private partnerships and community involvement.

USEPA-GLNPO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ***RFP 4 - Grants Servicing Intermediary
Intermediary Support for Ecological Protection and Restoration Projects in the Great Lakes Basin****A. Summary**

GLNPO seeks to award a cooperative agreement to fund an intermediary organization under the authority of Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to make sub-awards to State and local governments, Tribes, interstate agencies or commissions, Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions engaged in ecological protection and restoration activities. Sub-awards administered by the intermediary organization may support investigations, experiments, surveys, studies, training, research, and demonstrations (as allowed by Section 104(b)(3) of the CWA) to work towards the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. (See section F.3. for more details)

Ideally, the intermediary organization will have the following characteristics: ability to disperse and track sub-awards, general knowledge of historic and current Great Lakes ecological protection and restoration needs and activities, experience in organizational development, demonstrated ability to work with different kinds of organizations, history of successful performance as a Federal grant recipient, and ability to leverage additional resources.

Electronic versions of this Request for Proposals (RFP or RFP 4), links to background information, and links to Federal grant information are provided at the EPA Great Lakes National Program Office home page at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>

B. Background

Between 1992 and 2001, more than \$17 million was awarded and leveraged for 106 projects to protect, restore, inventory, assess, classify, monitor, and study more than 17 million acres of the Great Lakes basin. The GLNPO Ecological Protection and Restoration Program awarded assistance agreements for the projects, which were supported by 650 Federal, State, local, Tribal and non-governmental and academic partners. For about a dollar an acre, projects protected more than 6,400 acres from a variety of threats; began the process of restoring more than 7,300 acres, scientists and natural resource managers collaborated to formulate plans and strategies, built partnerships, and exchanged information and technologies; filled inventory, assessment, and classification gaps; broadened knowledge of Great Lakes ecosystems; monitored ecosystems and contributed to the development of Great Lakes indicators; taught more than 1,250 school children and many adults ecological protection and restoration activities; motivated more than 900 people to volunteer more than 3,800 hours to protect and restore Great Lakes ecosystems; and employed 31 full time, 17 part time, and 14 interns and seasonal people for jobs to carry out the projects. Brief descriptions of each project as well as results from many of the projects have been posted on the GLNPO website at www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html

Through this RFP, GLNPO seeks to identify an organization with a mission to support agencies, organizations and communities in their efforts to implement ecological protection and restoration activities throughout the Great Lakes basin. GLNPO will enter into a cooperative agreement with the selected intermediary organization to conduct an administrative review of applications, award and oversee sub-grants, monitor sub-grants for completion of projects, and report on results and lessons learned.

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2003, between \$60,000 to \$100,000 is available to manage 12 to 25 grants to State and local governments, Tribes, interstate agencies or commissions, Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions to protect and restore ecosystems in the Great Lakes basin. The amount of the assistance is dependent on the number of grants to be managed. The content of sub-grants will be based on the criteria in RFP 1C, and could include other grants, such as the Habitat workshops, described in this Funding Guidance. Once the Grants Servicing Intermediary has been selected and the sub-awards it will manage are known, the Grants Servicing Intermediary will be asked to submit a revised application in the full amount that will be awarded.

C. Funding Level and Statutory Authority

GLNPO will be awarding between \$60,000 to \$100,000 under a cooperative agreement to a non-profit organization, interstate agency or commission, or educational institution eligible under Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act to manage sub-awards to state and local governments, Tribes, interstate agencies or commissions, Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions. During the first year of the agreement, USEPA anticipates that additional funding would be added for the issuance of such sub-awards. Funds would be added in subsequent years for issuance and management of additional sub-awards.

The sub-awards will be distributed under section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act, which authorizes grants for the following activities: investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, research and studies. These activities relate generally to the gathering or transferring of information or advancing the state of knowledge. For investigations or demonstrations, activities must advance the state of knowledge or transfer of information. The statutory term "demonstration" can encompass the first instance of the application of a protection or restoration technique, or an innovative application of a previously used technique. The term "experiments" may include the application of a new method of protection and restoration that will include monitoring the success and progress of the method and sharing the knowledge with others.

D. Duration

GLNPO is seeking a Proposal for a five year project period, with an initial two year budget period beginning in FY 2003. EPA may elect to use the selected intermediary organization to make additional sub-awards for a period up to five years.

E. Proposal Contents

In the preparation of the Proposal, please note that the Federal Government's intent is to support the efforts of the recipient organization and the sub-grantees and not to obtain services for the direct use and benefit of the Federal Government.

The following elements are to be included in the full Proposal:

1. Organizational Background.

- Description of organization, including name, address, phone, fax, email, primary contact, documentation of non-profit status if applicable*, organizational mission, geographic scope.
- Description of organization's experience with Great Lakes ecological protection and restoration needs, research, and projects.
- Description of how this project fits with organization's mission.
- Description of organization's experience in managing a grant program.
- Description of Federal grant and accounting procedures, quality assurance, and peer review procedures.

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

- Description of project lead and sub-award management team (describe the members, their specialties, and what part of the sub-award program for which they will be responsible). Attach resumes and/or curricula vitae.

**Non-profit status: applicants are not required to have a formal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) non-profit designation, such as 501(c)(3), however they must present their letter of incorporation or other documentation demonstrating their non-profit or not-for-profit status. Failure to enclose the letter of incorporation or other documentation demonstrating their non-profit status will result in an incomplete submission and the Proposal will not be reviewed.*

2. Sub-award Process Description.

- Description of the proposed sub-award process including the time line for awarding sub-grants and procedures for announcement of sub-grantee selection.
- Description of the reporting mechanisms that would be used to track and report on the progress of the sub-awards, including interim and final reports, budget tracking, and quality assurance plans for projects with data collection.
- Description of existing or proposed Quality System Documentation. Quality System Documentation addressing the organization and the review and approval of Quality Assurance Project Plans for sub-awards will need to be in place before sub-awards are made.

3. Budget. The intermediary organization's administrative and overhead costs are expected to be in the range of \$60,000 to \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2003 and \$300,000 to \$500,000 over a five year period.

4. Evaluation Criteria. Proposal Evaluations will consider the applicable Funding Guidance General Criteria and the following Specific Criteria to evaluate intermediary organization applicants.

- i. Demonstrated ability to disperse and track sub-awards. *Maximum score: 20 points.*
- ii. General knowledge of current and historic Great Lakes ecological protection and restoration activities. *Maximum score: 15 points.*
- iii. Experience in organizational development. *Maximum score: 15 points.*
- iv. Demonstrated ability to work with different kinds of organizations. *Maximum score: 15 points.*
- v. History of successful performance as a Federal grant recipient, including knowledge of Federal assistance agreement regulations, quality assurance procedures, and project tracking. *Maximum score: 20 points.*
- vi. Ability to leverage additional resources. *Maximum score: 15 points.*

F. Logistics

Application Procedure. Contact Karen Rodriguez for an Application Package. Complete all Federal forms, along with your Proposal and other required information. Mail an original and two copies, enclosing a copy of the Proposal on a disk, to:

**Elias Avalos
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Great Lakes National Program Office
77 W. Jackson, G-17J
Chicago, IL 60604
Fax: 312-353-2018**

* Dollar amounts and project numbers are only Targets. See General Considerations - Amounts, Targets, etc.

Application Due Date. Postmarked by March 31, 2003

Important Dates:

- March 31, 2003 Postmarked Application deadline
 - 1) submit signed Federal grant applications and Proposals to EPA; and
 - 2) submit Proposal copies to State contacts for 60 day intergovernmental review process

- June, 2003 Expected date of award decision and project start
- October 1, 2003 Project Sub-awards

EPA Contacts:

Michael Russ
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Great Lakes National Program Office
77 W. Jackson, G-17J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-4013
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